

in addition to a balanced budget, we are going to keep our original contract. The original contract was with our senior citizens. We can have a balanced budget but it is important that we do it in the right way, not in the politically expedient way.

BUSINESS AS USUAL MUST GO: CONGRESS MUST PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, America's voters sent us to Washington to change the way the Federal Government does business. They made it very clear that the tax-and-spend mentality and business as usual must end.

The people are aware of the ever-increasing national debt of \$4.5 trillion and the need for a balanced budget amendment. They are also aware that too many here in Congress, do not comprehend the need, nor acknowledge the people's insistence, for it to be done. Americans balance their own budgets. They demand the same of their Government.

The people are burdened by paying over half of their income in taxes. So they fully understand the need for a vote by three-fifths of the Congress before taxes can be raised.

When the U.S. Congress enacts, and 38 States ratify, a balanced budget amendment, it will ensure that the Federal Government does not spend more than it takes in. It will be a first step toward achieving the changes that the voters have demanded, and it will contribute to the reweaving of the fabric of America for future generations.

MEDIA'S ASSERTION OF AMERICANS' ANGER OFF BASE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday, President Clinton said the American people were engaged in a shouting match. This observation parallels the liberal media's assertion that the American people are angry at each other. This is light years from the truth.

Americans are not angry and they are certainly not shouting at each other.

Mr. Speaker, if the American people are shouting at anybody, they are shouting at the Federal Government. More precisely, they are sickened at the level of irresponsible spending, the bloated and inefficient bureaucracies and the constant drumbeat for more taxes.

The other night President Clinton treated us to an interesting speech and I am glad to see that he supports many of the ideas Republicans have been

talking about for years. But once again I call on the President and my friends on the other side of the aisle to put aside the rhetoric and take action.

This week the President and this Congress have an opportunity to restore faith with the American people and put our financial priorities in order.

We must pass the balanced budget amendment and put an end to the disgrace of deficit spending. Remember, Mr. Speaker, the American people are not shouting at each other. They are shouting at us.

A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that when it comes to television ratings, the Simpson trial is going to get a lot more viewers than the proceedings of the House of Representatives, but I hope that America will tune in today to this debate on the balanced budget amendment. It is critically important to every American who values Social Security and Medicare. What the Republicans are proposing is literally to make certain that Social Security will be vulnerable to cuts for years to come. They will not tell you, but I think the facts bear us out.

They are going to call for a 30-percent cut in Medicare as a result of today's debate, and senior citizens will pay more out of pocket, have fewer services, and we will see hospitals closing across America.

These are facts the Republicans do not want to disclose but they are simple facts that are inevitable conclusions from where they stand. We should not be surprised.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH wrote in USA Today in 1987, "It's time to replace Social Security."

It is no priority for the Republicans, but it is a priority for America to protect our senior citizens, to protect Social Security and to protect Medicare.

SUPPORT BBA WITH THREE-FIFTHS REQUIREMENT

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last November the American people decided that Congress must take responsibility for their action and must be held accountable for the taxpayers' money. The public has lost all faith in the job that is being done by Congress. For the public to regain their trust and respect in our Government, we must pass a balanced budget amendment including a three-fifths requirement to increase taxes.

When this requirement takes effect, people will be reassured that Congress cannot blindly raise their taxes. The

amendment will help ensure a safe financial future for our children and grandchildren so they do not have to pay for the spending mistakes of yesterday.

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Every day Americans strongly support a balanced budget amendment. People understand the necessity of paying bills, balancing checkbooks, and living within their means. It is unfortunate that people struggle to make ends meet but their Government does not understand the concept.

Enough is enough. It is time for us to reign in the out-of-control spending habits of this Congress. I ask my fellow Members, both Democrats and Republicans, to support the balanced budget amendment with the three-fifths protection for American citizens.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY IN A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. BRYANT of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we will take up the balanced budget amendment and I am one Democrat who supports an amendment. But I support an amendment that protects Social Security. There is no reason why we cannot pass a balanced budget amendment that still maintains the guarantee to senior citizens that Social Security will not be touched.

We have heard some of these Republicans raise questions about why we are talking about Social Security. I will tell Members why. It is because you fellows elected a Speaker of the House who has called for abolishing Social Security. The Republican Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, in 1986 called for abolishing Social Security and turning it into some kind of a mandatory IRA program, and I am quoting from the Atlanta Constitution, November 1986.

Also because you Republicans elected a majority leader, DICK ARMEY, who did the same thing. He cosponsored a special provision for a mandatory retirement account that was supposed to substitute for Social Security. He also spoke out a few years ago about the fact that we never should have started Social Security in the first place.

Senior citizens have a good reason to be afraid of what Republicans are going to do to Social Security. Today when we vote for an amendment to balance the budget, we ought to vote for a provision to protect Social Security.

SINGING VERSUS SHOUTING

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address Tuesday night, President Clinton said that in the 1992 and 1994 elections, we did not